CLAIMS

Now, therefore, the following is claimed:

1   1.   A system for reporting impending vehicle deliveries, comprising:

        memory storing a vehicle schedule, said vehicle schedule identifying packages

3   that are to be delivered by a vehicle during a first time period and indicating an order that

4   said vehicle is expected to deliver said packages;

5   a first communications device configured to establish communication with

6   remote communications devices; and

7   a system manager configured to analyze said vehicle schedule and to determine,

8   based on said order, a second time period that said vehicle is expected to deliver one of

9   said packages, said system manager further configured to transmit a notification message

10   via said first communications device, said notification message identifying said second

11   time period,

12   wherein said second time period is within said first time period.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, wherein said notification message is an e-mail

2   message.

1   3.   The system of claim 1, wherein said first time period is a day.

1   4.   The system of claim 1, wherein said vehicle schedule identifies each

2   recipient that is to receive at least one of said packages, said notification message

3   identifying each of said packages to be received by one of said recipients during said first

4   time period.

1   5.   A system for reporting impending vehicle deliveries, comprising:

2   memory storing package data identifying a plurality of packages that are to be

3   respectively delivered to a plurality of recipients;

4   a first communications device configured to establish communication with

5   remote communications devices; and

6   a system manager configured to detect when one of said packages has been

7   assigned to a vehicle for delivery to one of said recipients, said system manager further

8   configured to transmit a notification message via said first communications device in

9   response to a detection that said one of said packages has been assigned to said vehicle.

1   6.   The system of claim 5, further comprising a scanner configured to scan a

2   label of said one package and to identify said one package based on said label, wherein

3   said system manager detects that that said package has been assigned to said vehicle

4   based on whether said scanner has identified said one package.

1   7.   The system of claim 5, wherein said notification message is an e-mail

2   message.

1   8.   The system of claim 5, wherein said package data indicates whether said

2   one package has been assigned to said vehicle and said system detects when said one

3   package has been assigned to said vehicle by analyzing said package data.

1   9.   The system of claim 5, wherein said notification message identifies a

2   sender of said one package.

1   10.   The system of claim 5, wherein said package data indicates that said

2   packages are to be delivered by said vehicle and indicates an order that said vehicle is

3   expected to deliver said packages, and wherein said system manager is further configured

4   to determine, based on said order, that said one package is expected to be delivered

5   during a particular time period, said notification message indicating that said one package

6   is expected to be delivered during said particular time period.

1   11.   The system of claim 5, wherein said system manager is further configured

2   to determine when said vehicle is within a predefined proximity of a premises of said one

3   recipient based on signals transmitted from said vehicle, said system manager further

4   configured to transmit a second notification message when said vehicle is within said

5   predefined proximity.

12. A method for reporting impending vehicle deliveries, comprising the steps of:

    receiving a plurality of packages;

    assigning each of said packages to a vehicle;

    determining an order that said vehicle is to deliver said packages;

    determining, based on said order, a first time period that said vehicle is expected to deliver one of said packages to a recipient;

    causing a notification message to be transmitted to said recipient based on said determining a first time period step;

    indicating said first time period via said notification message;

    simultaneously transporting each of said packages via said vehicle; and

    transporting said one package to a premises of said recipient via said vehicle.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of transmitting said notification message via an e-mail message.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

    determining whether each of said packages is expected to be delivered during a second time period; and

    performing said assigning step based on said determining whether step, wherein said first time period is within said second time period.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said second time period is a day.

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1   16.   A method for reporting impending vehicle deliveries, comprising the steps

2   of:

3   receiving a package for delivery to a premises of a recipient;

4   assigning said package to a vehicle;

5   detecting when said package is assigned to said vehicle;

6   producing a notification message in response to said detecting step, said

7   notification message indicating a time period in which said package is expected to be

8   delivered at said premises;

9   transmitting said notification message to a communications device located at said

10   premises; and

11   transporting said package to said premises via said vehicle.

1   17.   The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of scanning a label of

2   said package, wherein said detecting step further includes the step of detecting said

3   scanning step.

1   18.   The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

2   storing data indicating whether said package is assigned to a vehicle;

3   analyzing said data; and

4   performing said detecting step based on said analyzing step.

1   19.   The method of claim 16, wherein said notification message is an e-mail

2 message.

1   20.   The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

2   determining when said vehicle is within a predetermined proximity of said

3 premises; and

4   transmitting a second notification message in response to said determining step.

1   21.   The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of indicating, via said

2 notification message, a sender of said package.

1   22.   The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of indicating, via said

2 notification message, a weight of said package.

1   23.   The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

2   maintaining a web page;

3   receiving contact information via said web page; and

4   utilizing said contact information to perform said transmitting step.